



**FireWise  
Community Action  
Program  
for Alaska**



**Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group**





## IN YOUR FIREWISE KIT:

- ☐ Educator's Packet- Provides the basic FireWise fundamentals to the caretaker to help instruct the FireWise Program.
- ☐ FireWise Video- Provides a general overview of the information within the FireWise Program.
- ☐ FireWise Home Rating Sheet- Helps you and your neighbors rate your homes.
- ☐ Preparing for Wildland Fires in Alaska Check Sheet- A comprehensive checksheet used to see if you have completed all the FireWise steps described in the brochures and educators packet.
- ☐ FireWise Brochures- Allows your neighbors to take home the FireWise information obtained at the meeting.
- ☐ FireWise Lapel Pin- Given to attending members in recognition of their participation in the community FireWise meeting.
- ☐ Firewise Poster- Helps you to share the information learned with children at home or at school.

## THE GOOD NEIGHBOR SHARING SYSTEM:

The FireWise Program can be shared in many ways in whatever manner is appropriate for your community, but it has been best used when these steps are followed:

- ☐ As Caretaker, organize a community meeting to introduce the FireWise Program to your neighbors. You may want to ask your local fire service agency representative to help you present this information too.



- ☐ Distribute the homeowners packet to each member present at the meeting, and briefly, explain what each item is used for.
- ☐ View the video tape and discuss any questions.
- ☐ Highlight the topics in the educator's packet, discuss how each element is linked to the checksheet provided. Point out the resource list that is provided in the text, and discuss which resources are most useful and appropriate for your group.
- ☐ Explain how to use the material that has been provided to build an individual FireWise plan.
- ☐ Ask attending members to build their own plans and provide you with a way to compile all the individual information into a community plan.
- ☐ Collect contact information from your community members and create a list of program participants.
- ☐ Thank people for coming, and give them a central location for the next FireWise meeting.
- ☐ Keep the FireWise Program and plans for future reference.



# **INTRODUCTION:**

## **CHAPTER I**

The Real Threat Of Wildland Fire!

## **CHAPTER II**

Evaluation

### **ELEMENT : 1**

Landscaping

### **ELEMENT : 2**

Access & Signs

### **ELEMENT : 3**

Emergency Water Supply

### **ELEMENT : 4**

FireWise Construction

### **ELEMENT : 5**

Home Planning

### **ELEMENT : 6**

When Wildfire Threatens

## **APPENDIX**

GLOSSARY

RESOURCE LIST

CHECKLIST



# The Real Threat of Wildland Fire!

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Alaska is a beautiful land of majestic mountains, forests and wetlands teeming with wildlife. In many of these Alaskan wildland environments, fire plays a significant ecological role, helping to shape and sustain the variety of wildlife habitats and wildlife populations Alaska is famous for. Many Alaskans enjoy living in or adjacent to wildlands, and an ever-increasing number of homes and other structures are being built in these areas. Areas where human development meets or mixes with natural vegetation is termed the wildland/urban interface. Fires that occur in or near the wildland/urban interface, whether caused by lightning or careless human behavior, can pose significant threats to homes and other structures built within this interface. Firefighting agencies are committed to suppressing these fires, termed wildland fires, and to protect developed areas from the spread and threat of wildland fires. However, there are times when weather and burning conditions get in the way of suppression and protection efforts of firefighting agencies.

As soon as the snow melts, many wildland/urban interface areas in Alaska are susceptible to fire. Both living and dead trees are extremely flammable, and dry grasses can burn with a rapid rate of spread prior to spring. Firefighting agencies are prepared to respond to wildland fire emergencies, but there are several factors that determine firefighting abilities:



- The distances between structures in your community and fire stations or firefighting forces greatly impact emergency response times.
- During multiple fire occurrences or on larger fires, there will likely not be enough personnel and equipment available to protect every structure threatened.
- During a fire, some areas may be unsafe for firefighters to enter due to extreme fire hazards.
- Once structures are involved, wildland firefighting agencies may not be trained or equipped to do anything other than to try to check the fire's further spread.

Any of these factors could lead to the possibility that firefighting efforts may not be feasible or effective for all structures threatened by a wildland fire. You or your community members must evaluate the capability of your communities to withstand an approaching wildland fire without the intervention of firefighting personnel and equipment. It is essential that community members assume some responsibility to make preparations before a wildland fire occurs, and pre-plan and prepare for a safe evacuation.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

During the 1996 Miller's Reach Fire near Big Lake, Alaska, over 400 structures were lost when the fire overwhelmed firefighting efforts. Yet, over 1000 threatened structures survived, many through the efforts of firefighters and community members, and many more as a result of preparations made by community members.

Many preparations can be made to reduce the potential destruction of individual homes, subdivisions, villages or other developed areas by wildland fire. The following chapters will lead you through a process by which you and your neighbors can develop a Firewise Community Action Plan.



- Chapter I addresses the evaluation process used to assess risks and hazards that can increase the chances of fire or fire damage.
- Chapter II discusses the six elements of a FireWise community and describes how to establish and implement your FireWise Action Plan.

FireWise focuses on pre-fire preparedness and community education and involvement. Each chapter and element refers you to a worksheet that will help you and your community members build your FireWise plan.





# CHAPTER I: Evaluation

The first step toward developing a FireWise plan for defense against wildland fire is to look at your surroundings and evaluate them for susceptibility to fire. When you are doing your evaluation imagine the worst wildland fire scenario: winds greater than 20 mph, hot dry conditions, and dry vegetation.

## Determine Hazard

**Hazards** are defined as *the fuels and topography of an area*. Examining hazards determines the potential for a large fire to result from an **ignition**. Work through the Home Hazard Assessment rating form provided in the handouts.

## Identify Values

**Values** are defined as *things that are important to you where loss or destruction by wildland fire would be unacceptable*. Values must be identified and rated in order to clarify goals and prioritize preventative actions for the planning process.

## Recognize Risk of Ignition

**Risks** are defined as *potential sources of wildland fire ignition*. Wherever there are concentrations of people or activity, be aware of the potential for human-caused ignition.

## Check Regulations

Examine codes, ordinances, covenants, and regulations that are applicable to your community. Making a list of these will be valuable as you begin to develop your plan. Identify community leaders who may provide valuable support for implementing local programs.



# Chapter II: Six Elements of a FireWise Community

When developing a **FireWise Action Plan** for yourself and your community, six elements are important to address:



## **ELEMENT 1: Landscaping**

Develop and Maintain a FireWise Landscape Around Your Home



## **ELEMENT 2: Access & Signs**

Make Sure Emergency Personnel Can Locate and get to Your Home



## **ELEMENT 3: Water Supply**

Establish Your Emergency Water Supply



## **ELEMENT 4: Construction**

Build or Remodel to Make Your Home Resistant to Fire



## **ELEMENT 5: Home Planning**

Fire Safety Inside Your Home



## **ELEMENT 6: WHEN WILDFIRE THREATENS**

Home Preparedness





## ELEMENT : 1

# Develop And Maintain A FIREWISE Landscape Around Your Home

### OBJECTIVE:

**Reduce the size and intensity of the fire as it approaches your property by altering the vegetative fuels.**

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**Y**our first defense against wildland fires is to create a **FireWise** landscape around your home. This can be achieved by removing flammable vegetation and replacing it with fire-resistant plants; spacing the plants in your yard; and clearing away dead vegetation and debris around your home.

### DEFENSIBLE SPACE

If you are able to create a **FireWise** landscape around your house, you will reduce the chance of wildland fire spreading onto your property and burning through to your home. This is the basis for creating a defensible space - an area that will help protect your home and provide a safety zone for those who are battling the flames.

Clearing all flammable vegetation a minimum of 30 feet (100 feet or more in some



areas) around your home and other structures will help provide you with the greatest chance for survival. But this does not mean you have to live with a ring of bare dirt around your home. You can create a defensible space and also beautify your property.

## FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

You can start with the vegetation around your home. Many of the plants that grow naturally in your area are highly flammable during the summer and can actually fuel a wildland fire, causing it to spread rapidly through your neighborhood. Removing or transplanting more flammable vegetation and replacing it with low-growing, fire resistant plants is one of the easiest and most effective ways to create defensible space.



You should select landscape vegetation based on fire resistance and ease of maintenance, as well as visual enhancement of your property.

Plan landscaping for desired community character and design. You may want to incorporate designs which encourage wildlife habitat and a healthy environment.



## IN GENERAL, FIRE RESISTIVE PLANTS:

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- ☐ grow close to the ground
- ☐ have a low sap or resin content
- ☐ grow without accumulating dead branches, needles or leaves
- ☐ are easily maintained and pruned
- ☐ and are drought-tolerant in some cases

## OTHER FIREWISE PRECAUTIONS

After you have removed and/or replaced flammable vegetation around your home for a minimum of 30 feet, there are other **FireWise** precautions that you should follow:

Heavily wooded areas on your property should have some of the trees removed to decrease the fire hazard and improve growing conditions. Also, remove dead, weak or diseased trees, leaving a healthy mixture of older and younger trees.

Work together with your neighbors to clear common areas between houses, and prune areas of heavy vegetation that are a threat to both homes and structures.

Electrical power lines should be clear of vegetation. Avoid planting trees near lines, where they may grow into and contact the lines under windy conditions, causing a fire.

Remove dead limbs hanging over your roof and any limb within 10 feet of your chimney.

Roofs, gutters, and other areas around the house collect leaves, needles, and other woody debris. These areas must be cleared several times during the spring, summer and fall. Burning embers will be carried to the same areas and can easily ignite the fine, dry fuels.



Locate burn barrels at least 30 feet from any structure and clear the ground around the barrel for a minimum of 10 feet. A burn barrel must be in good condition and be covered with a woven metal screen.

Properly dispose of all cut vegetation by an approved method. Open burning may require a burning permit. Contact your nearest fire agency, department, or Village Public Safety Officer for local requirements.

### **CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING:**

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- ☐ Utilize firewood, as possible
- ☐ Chipping and scattering
- ☐ Mulching and composting
- ☐ Burying on site
- ☐ Haul to landfill

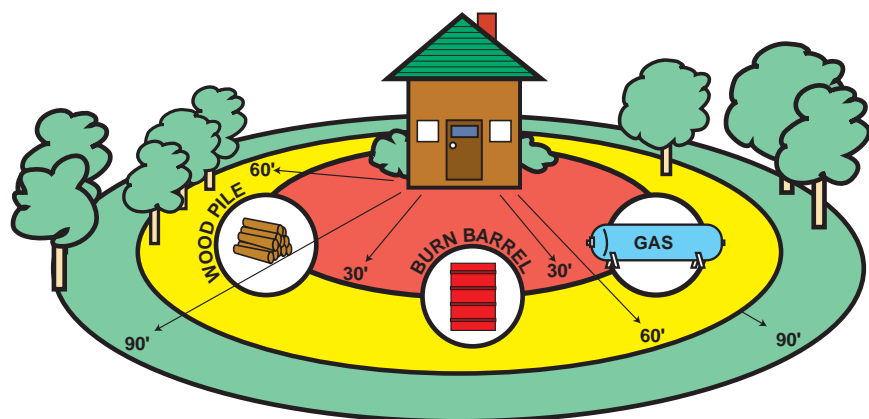
Stack firewood and scrap wood piles at least 30 feet from any structure. And clear away any flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these wood piles. Many homes have survived as a fire moved past, only to burn later from a wood pile that ignited after the firefighters moved on to protect other homes.

It is recommended that you locate and label liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanks and any fuel storage containers at least 30 feet from a structure. Use stone or iron, instead of wood, for cribs under tanks. If you store gas, please label it.

Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet around all such tanks.

All terrain vehicles, snowmachines and other machinery should be parked away from your home.

Maintenance of your **FireWise Landscape**, is important. You should irrigate to maintain moisture in the vegetation during dry periods. If you have any questions about creating or maintaining a defensible space around your home, contact your local fire agency or department, cooperative extension office, community forestry program, or local nursery.



Use the **zone concept** for thinning, limbing, and clearing flammable vegetation as you move farther from your home.





## ELEMENT : 2

# Make Sure Emergency Personnel Can Locate And Get To Your Home

### OBJECTIVE:

Clearly marked signs and or landmark, and adequate road access.

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**T**he first few minutes of a fire are the most critical for saving your home from a wildland fire. Firefighting personnel must be able to find and safely travel to your home to have a chance to protect it. Road signs and house addresses must be clearly posted, and roads must be able to accommodate busy traffic. At the same time that fire engines and other emergency equipment are trying to drive into your area, you must be able to escape in your car with your family and valuable personal possessions. Cabins in remote areas can be protected from wildland fires only if fire suppression agencies know they exist. Make sure the proper suppression agency knows where your cabin is prior to the fire season starting.

### ROAD SIGNS AND ADDRESSES

Proper identification of your home is essential. Remember, during a major wildland fire, firefighters from throughout the state arrive to assist local fire fighters, and they will rely on clear street signs, landmarks, and addresses to find your home.

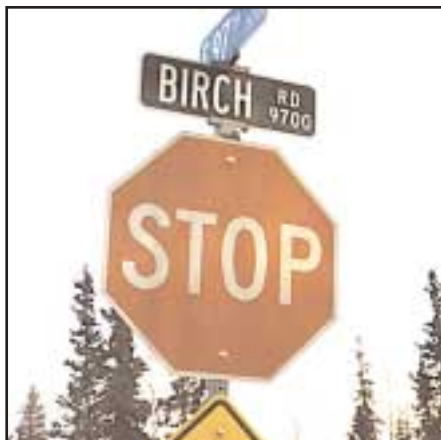
Your street name and address should be printed in letters and numbers that are at least four inches tall, on a contrasting color





background. They should be visible from all directions of travel for at least 150 feet. And the sign should be made of fire resistant materials.

Each of the streets and roads in your area should be labeled, and each should have a different name or number. In addition, your home should have its own house number, which should be in numerical order along your street or road.



If your house is set back from the street, road, or trail, post your address or name at the entrance of your driveway. In situations where more than one home is accessed off a single driveway, all addresses should be posted at the street and at each appropriate intersection along that driveway.



### ACCESS TO YOUR HOUSE

Even if your street and house are clearly identified for firefighters, precious time can be lost if firefighters have difficulty getting to your house. Narrow roads, dead-end streets, steep driveways and weak bridges can delay firefighters, or prevent them from arriving at all. Remember, fire fighting equipment is much larger



and heavier than your family car or truck.

Road and street systems must be planned and designed to provide safe emergency evacuation and fire equipment access. A minimum of two primary access roads should be designed into every subdivision and development.

All private and public streets should be designed and constructed to provide two traffic lanes, each a minimum of nine feet in width, which is just enough space for a fire engine and car to pass each other. Curves and intersections should also be wide enough to allow large fire equipment easy passage and the ability to turn.



In communities with fire departments, roads, driveways and bridges should be built to carry at least 40,000 lbs., which is the average weight of a fire engine. (By comparison, the average family minivan weighs about 4,000 lbs.) Also, streets and driveways must not be too steep or have sharp curves, which can prevent emergency equipment from arriving to protect your home.

If you have any question about emergency access to your home, including construction widths, grades or strengths, contact your local fire agency or public works department.

### **ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFE STEPS**

Every dead-end street or long driveway should have a turn-around area designed as either a "T" or a circle large enough to





### **Clear trees, grass, and shrubs away from roads and driveways.**

allow fire equipment to turn around. Single-lane one-way roads and driveways should have turnouts constructed within sight of each other or at regular distances apart.

You can also improve your chances for safety by clearing away flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from all roads and at least five feet from driveways. If possible, cut back and prune vegetation even more than these distances, and make sure that trees and shrubs are widely spaced. Also, cut back any overhanging tree branches above the road. This will provide yourself, evacuating neighbors and arriving firefighters with even greater protection.

Each of these steps will give wildland fire fighters a chance to find and protect your home. A delay of only a few minutes can mean the difference between saving your home and losing it.





**EMERGENCY  
WATER SUPPLY**

## **E L E M E N T : 3**

# **Establish Your Emergency Water Supply**

### **OBJECTIVE:**

**Maintain water supply during a power outage and periods of high demand.**

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**E**ven a FIREWISE home may not be able to survive a wildland fire without an emergency water supply. Without an on-site water source, firefighters have very little chance of protecting a threatened house or extinguishing a burning one. Some communities have water systems with large storage facilities and well-spaced hydrants that generally meet the needs of wildland firefighters, but many don't.



### **YOUR PERSONAL EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY**

If your home or cabin does not have access to an adequate community water system, you will need to develop an individual well or water source that provides suitable storage and fire equipment access. A minimum water storage supply of 2,500 gallons





is recommended for use in emergency situations. Storage facilities may include above or below ground tanks, swimming pools, perennial streams, lakes or ponds. A dry hydrant may be installed to improve efficiency and accessibility to your water source. Cooperation with your neighbors can result in the development of a common emergency water storage facility that can provide protection for your home and several others. See

the resource list at the end of this publication to find out more about water delivery systems designs and requirements.

## ACCESS TO YOUR EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

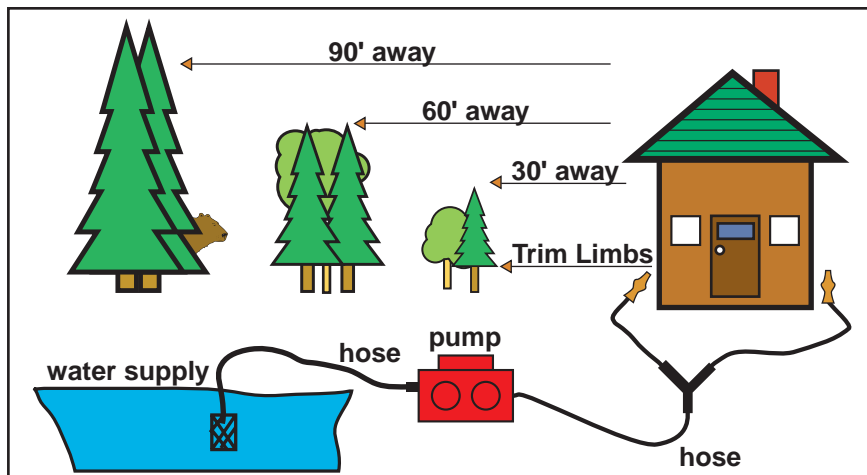
Once you have established an emergency water supply, you must make sure firefighters can get to it. If your water comes from a well, it is recommended that you have a gasoline-powered generator so firefighters can operate your well pump during a power failure. The generator **MUST** be installed with a safety transfer switch to prevent feedback into power lines! Firefighters must also be able to locate your water supply. Prepare instructions for location and use of equipment by firefighters in the event of an emergency.

### SOME TIPS:

- ☐ You must have a gasoline-powered, portable pump to transfer water from your alternative water source, if you don't have a well with a submersible pump.
- ☐ In some situations you may plan for exterior sprinkler systems that can be deployed when needed. Do not turn on the

water until the fire is close at hand.

- ❑ Assemble a portable 200 to 300 gallon water tank and pump on a trailer or pickup for use by the community.
- ❑ Learn about a **foam system** and incorporate it into your exterior home or portable water supply. Contact a wildland firefighting agency for information on limitations and dangers involving the use of fire retardant foam.
- ❑ Assemble a portable pump on an ATV and make it available to the community.



## REMEMBER:

The water you use before the fire arrives will not be available to you or firefighters when the fire arrives.





## **Build or Remodel To Make Your Home Resistant To Fire**

### **OBJECTIVE:**

**Your home and other structures should be able to survive independently of fire suppression agencies presence.**

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**Y**our home could be vulnerable to a wildland fire because of its design, construction or location. If you are preparing to build, buy, or remodel a house, you should know what to look for in a FireWise house. A few modifications to your construction plans can reduce the chance of your house catching on fire.

If possible, locate a new house at least 30 feet from the boundary of your lot. This will allow you to design your landscape with at least 30 feet of defensible space. Ridge tops, canyons, and areas between high points on a ridge are extremely hazardous locations because they become natural chimneys. As a fire moves rapidly upslope, it preheats the fuels in front of the fire and increases its intensity. You should set the home back from the top edge of the slope to avoid direct impact by the flames burning up the slope.

### **BUILDING MATERIALS**

Exterior construction materials like metal resist fire much better than wood. Vinyl siding can melt from the heat of a fire. If you have a wood exterior, it is especially important that you follow



the FireWise practices outlined in this booklet. Generally, thicker siding materials are more fire resistant.

Enclose, or skirt, the area underneath the house, porches, balconies, and decks with fire resistant materials. If not enclosed, these areas can trap flames and burning embers that can ignite your home.

## YOUR ROOF

Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your house because it can easily catch fire from wind-blown sparks. The single most important step you can take to create a FireWise house is to build or re-roof with a fire resistant or noncombustible material. Contact the Alaska Division of Forestry, your insurance company, your local fire agency, or a building supplier for specific roofing guidelines.



## OTHER BUILDING CONCERNS

Roof eaves extending beyond exterior walls are also susceptible to flame exposure, and should be limited in length and boxed or enclosed with fire resistant materials. Attic or ridge vents can allow easy entry of flame embers and sparks. Cover all vents with a non-flammable 1/4 inch mesh screen. Every chimney and stovepipe must be covered by a non-flammable screen with a mesh no larger than 5/8 inch.





Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation. Even from a distance of 30 feet, the heat from a wildland fire may be enough to ignite furniture or curtains in your house. Installing small-paned or dual-panel windows can reduce the potential of breakage from wind-blown debris and reduce the amount of heat transmitted from the fire to the interior of your home. Sliding glass doors and large picture windows should be made of tempered safety glass.



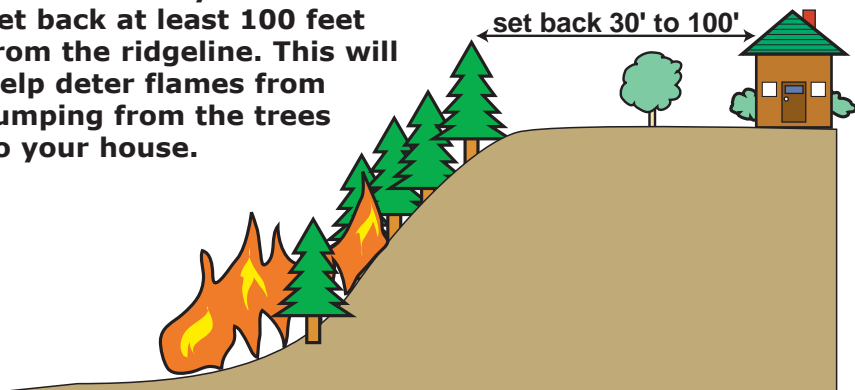
### SOME TIPS:

- ❑ Open windows should be screened to prevent entry of embers, in case you are away from home at the time of the fire and the window is left open.
- ❑ Plastic skylights or attached greenhouses may melt from the intense heat of a wildland fire and allow entry of windblown embers.
- ❑ Wooden fences act like fuel bridges, leading the fire to your house. You should separate a wooden fence from your home with a space or partition built from fire-resistant materials, such as stone or metal.



- A wooden trellis may also pose a fire hazard. Consider metal or iron for safe and decorative accents.
- Clear all debris from under decks, steps and around the base of the house to eliminate fuels for wind-blown embers, and enclose these areas to prevent further accumulation.
- Inspect your home annually for deterioration such as cracks or crevices that may trap embers.

**Fire can quickly move up hill, so make sure your house is set back at least 100 feet from the ridgeline. This will help deter flames from jumping from the trees to your house.**





## Fire Safety Inside Your Home

### OBJECTIVE:

**Ensure life safety for all family members.**

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**S**moke detectors have saved many lives and may save yours. More than 50 percent of fatal residential fires take place at night when people are sleeping. If a fire starts while your family is asleep, smoke detectors will wake you up. They can make the difference between life and death in a fire emergency.



Position smoke detectors on the ceiling just outside each bedroom. If you have a multi-level home, install a detector on every level. If you sleep with your bedroom door closed, place an additional detector inside your bedroom.

Before you buy a smoke detector, make sure it is listed and approved by an independent testing laboratory. Read the instructions enclosed with your smoke detector carefully to find out exactly how and where to install it. Be sure to test your



smoke detector each month and change its batteries at least twice a year. A good habit to follow is to change the batteries in your smoke detectors in the spring and fall when you change your clocks.

A carbon monoxide monitor is also important for your home to warn your family of invisible hazards.

## PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Portable fire extinguishers can save lives and property by helping you put out or contain small fires until the fire department arrives. But they must be used properly and under the right conditions.

Be sure the fire extinguisher is listed and approved by an independent testing laboratory. Extinguishers are identified by the type of fire on which they can be used:



### TYPE FOR USE ON

Type A - wood or cloth fires

Type B - flammable liquid fires

Type C - electrical fires

Type D - flammable metal fires

Make sure that each member of your family can hold and operate the fire extinguisher and knows where it is located. Mount extinguishers in easy-to-get-to places. Remember that fire



extinguishers need annual maintenance and must be recharged after every use.

## HOME SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Home sprinkler systems are one of the most reliable and effective forms of protection from fire because they provide an immediate response to extinguish a fire inside your home. They also can extinguish a fire when you are asleep or when you are away.

Home sprinkler systems may pay for themselves in just a few years through reduced insurance premiums. Contact your local fire agency or insurance company for information on selecting an approved sprinkler system for your home.

## PLAN YOUR ESCAPE!

It is important that all family members know what to do in an emergency. Even with an early warning from a smoke detector, escaping a fire can be difficult or impossible. Fire can spread very rapidly, blocking exits and creating dangerous smokey conditions.

Smoke is your enemy! Even a few breaths of smoke and toxic gases can choke and kill you. If you become trapped in smoke, crawl low towards your escape route or exit and keep your head down. Smoke and heat rise, so cleaner air is near the floor.



Contact your neighbors and local authorities to pre-plan community emergency procedures, such as standard escape routes and common meeting places. Also, it is helpful to develop a community alert system that can be used during a fire or other emergency. With an alert system, anyone who spots an emergency will know how to react so that everyone in your neighborhood will be notified in time to respond.

## **HERE ARE THE STEPS YOU SHOULD TAKE TO PLAN YOUR ESCAPE:**

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- ☐ Draw a floor plan of your home and mark all possible escape routes. Make sure you know two safe ways out of every room, especially the bedrooms.
- ☐ Prepare a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency. If you can, store these valuables together to save time later.
- ☐ Remember that young, elderly and disabled persons may need assistance. Their rooms should be located as close to an exit as possible. Train the rest of your family to help them get out in an emergency.
- ☐ Remind everyone to close doors behind them as they evacuate the house to slow down the spread of fire, smoke and heat.
- ☐ Decide on an outside meeting place to assemble your family and to make sure everyone is out.
- ☐ You should have an alternate place to stay in the event of evacuation.
- ☐ Practice your escape! Conduct home fire drills often, varying the drill to prepare for different fire situations. You may be blinded by smoke, so try practicing your escape plan with your eyes closed.



## IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING

- ☐ Before you exit your room, feel the door. If it is hot, don't open it. Use your second way out.
- ☐ If smoke, heat, or flame block both of your escape routes, stay in the room with the door closed.
- ☐ Stuff sheets, blankets, or towels in the cracks around the door and around the heating and air conditioning vents to keep smoke and fumes out.
- ☐ Open a door as long as no smoke is entering the room. Hang a bright sheet or cloth out the window to signal for help if you can't get out.
- ☐ If there is a phone in the room, dial 911 or other emergency number and tell the emergency dispatcher where you are.
- ☐ If your clothes catch fire,

# STOP, DROP & ROLL.





**WHEN WILDFIRE  
THREATENS**

## **E L E M E N T : 6**

# **WHEN WILDLAND FIRE THREATENS**

### **OBJECTIVE:**

**Planning must be done before the emergency to avoid panic and confusion.**

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If you have followed the advance preparation steps outlined in this booklet, you have created a FireWise house that has a better chance of surviving a wildland fire. But when a wildland fire is immediately threatening your area, there are additional steps you can take to help protect yourself and your home.

First, if you see a fire approaching your home, report it immediately by dialing 911 or your local emergency number. Remember to stay on the phone to answer additional questions the emergency dispatcher may ask.

Next, dress properly to prevent burns and lifelong scars. Wear long pants, cotton or wool long-sleeve shirts or jackets and sturdy leather boots. Gloves provide added protection. Do not wear short sleeve shirts or clothing made of synthetic fabrics.

**IF THERE IS TIME BEFORE THE FIRE ARRIVES, TAKE  
THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:**

### **PREPARING TO EVACUATE**

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- ☐ If you choose to evacuate by your private aircraft, do so prior to the fire arriving. Remember, the airspace surround-





ing the fire will soon be filled with suppression aircraft and a collision may occur. Once you are evacuated, do not re-enter the airspace until all flight restrictions are lifted.

- ❑ Park your car in the garage or shelter, heading out with windows closed and keys in the ignition.
- ❑ Close the garage door but leave it unlocked; disconnect the automatic garage door opener in case of power failure.
- ❑ Park your ATV heading out with the key in ignition

- ❑ Place valuable documents, family mementos and pets inside the car in the garage for quick departure, if necessary.

- ❑ Keep a flashlight, portable radio, and fresh batteries.

- ❑ If you do evacuate, use your pre-planned route, away from the approaching fire front.

- ❑ If you are trapped by fire while evacuating in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket and lie on the floor.



- ❑ If you are trapped by fire while evacuating on foot, select an area clear of vegetation along a road, or lie in the road ditch. Cover any exposed skin with a jacket or blanket. Avoid canyons that can concentrate and channel fire.

## OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

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- ❑ Move combustible yard furniture away from the house or store it in the garage; if it catches fire while outside, the added heat could ignite your house.
- ❑ Cover windows, attic openings, eaves vents and sub-floor vents with fire resistant material such as 1/2 inch or thicker plywood. This will eliminate the possibility of sparks blowing into hidden areas within the house. Close window shutters if they are fire resistant.
- ❑ Attach garden hoses to spigots and place them so they can reach any area of your house.
- ❑ Fill trash cans and buckets with water and locate them where firefighters can find them.
- ❑ Shut off liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or natural gas valves.
- ❑ If you have an emergency generator or a portable gasoline-powered pump that will supply water from a hot tub, pond, well, tank, or river clearly mark its location and make sure it is ready to operate.
- ❑ Place a ladder against the house on the side opposite the approaching fire to help firefighters in rapidly getting on to your roof.



- ❑ Place a lawn sprinkler on flammable roofs, but don't turn it on unless the fire is an immediate threat. You do not want to reduce the supply of water for the firefighters.

## **INSIDE YOUR HOME**

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- ❑ Close all windows and doors to prevent sparks from blowing inside.
- ❑ Close all doors inside the house to slow down fire spread from room to room.
- ❑ Turn on a light in each room of your house, on the porch and in the yard. This will make the house more visible in heavy smoke or darkness.
- ❑ Fill sinks, bathtubs and buckets with water. These can be important extra water reservoirs.
- ❑ Move furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors to keep it from igniting from the heat of fire radiating through windows.
- ❑ Remove your curtains and drapes. If you have metal blinds or special fire resistant window coverings, close them to block heat radiation.

## **IF YOU STAY IN YOUR HOME WHEN A FIRE APPROACHES:**

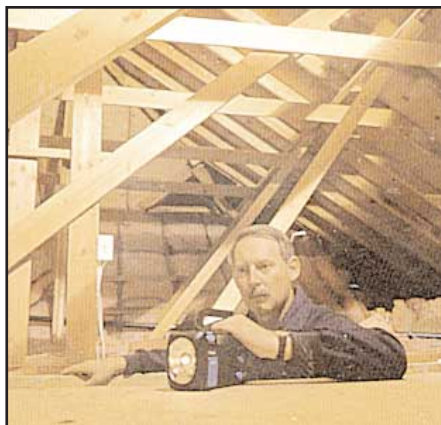
- ❑ Stay inside your house, away from outside walls.
- ❑ Close all doors, but leave them unlocked.
- ❑ Keep your entire family together and remain calm. Remember, if it gets hot in the house, it is many times hotter and more dangerous outside.

## **AFTER THE FIRE PASSES**

- ❑ Check the roof immediately, extinguishing all sparks and embers. If you must climb onto the roof, use caution, especially if it is wet.



- ☐ Check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.
- ☐ Check your yard for burning woodpiles, trees, fence posts or other materials.
- ☐ Keep the doors and windows closed.
- ☐ Continue rechecking your home and yard for burning embers for at least 12 hours.



# APPENDIX

## GLOSSARY

<b>Agency</b>	The division of government with a specific function, or a non-governmental organization that offers a particular kind of assistance.
<b>Apparatus</b>	The equipment needed for, in this case, fighting a wildland fire.
<b>Brush</b>	A stand of vegetation dominated by shrubby, woody plants, or low growing trees, usually undesirable for livestock or timber management.
<b>Community</b>	A specific locality, including all of its inhabitants.
<b>Debris</b>	An accumulation of loose material, in this case, from plants.
<b>Defensible Space</b>	The prepared area around a structure that is designed to resist wildland fire.
<b>Habitat</b>	The natural surroundings and living conditions for organisms, in this case, wildland fire.
<b>Hazards</b>	The fuels and topography of an area, which may contribute to the spread of a wildland fire.
<b>Landscaping</b>	Improving a piece of land by following a plan for the layout of scenery and terrain.



<b>Limbing</b>	Pruning or removal of lower limbs of trees.
<b>Risk</b>	The chance or possibility of danger, loss, injury, or other adverse consequences. In this case, a wildland fire ignition.
<b>Safe Zone</b>	A predetermined area that is free from material that will carry fire and is large enough to be safe from radiant heat.
<b>Spark Arrester</b>	Woven metal screen designed to stop the passage of carbon particles.
<b>Thinning</b>	Reducing the number of trees or bushes in an area.
<b>Value</b>	The worth, desirability, or utility of a thing.
<b>Volatile</b>	Explosive, likely to cause a violent reaction, flammable.
<b>Wildland fire</b>	Uncontrolled burning of grass, brush, timber and other flammable material.
<b>Wildland/Urban Interface</b>	The area or zone where structures and other human development comes in contact with natural or undeveloped vegetation.

### **United States Forest Service (USFS)**

907-271-2500 • 3301 C St, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

### **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

907-267-1220 • 6881 Abbott Loop Rd.,  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

### **Alaska Fire Service (AFS)**

907-356-5500 • P.O. Box 33005,  
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

### **Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)**

907-269-8400 • 3601 C St, Suite 1034,  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

### **Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADF&G)**

907-459-7259 • 1300 College Rd.,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

### **Chugachmiut**

907-562-4155 • 4201 Tudor Centre Dr., Suite 201,  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

### **United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFW)**

907-786-3654 • 1011 E. Tudor Rd.,  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

### **National Park Service (NPS)**

907-257-2643 • 2525 Gambell St. Suite 107,  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



## WEB RESOURCE LIST

### **Firewise**

[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

### **National Interagency Fire Center**

[www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)

### **National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group**

[www.nwcg.gov](http://www.nwcg.gov)

### **Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Ed.**

[www.blm.gov/education](http://www.blm.gov/education)

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

[www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs](http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs)

### **California Fire Safe Council**

[www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)

### **State of AK, Division of Forestry**

[www.dnr.state.ak/forestry](http://www.dnr.state.ak/forestry)

### **Alaska Fire Service**

[fire.ak.blm.gov](http://fire.ak.blm.gov)

### **USFW, AK Region**

[www.r7.fws.gov](http://www.r7.fws.gov)

### **Fish and Wildlife Service Home Page**

[www.usfw.gov](http://www.usfw.gov)





**Alaska Division of Forestry**

[www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fireinfo.htm](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fireinfo.htm)

**Alaska Native Knowledge Network**

[zorba.uafadm.alaska.edu/ankn/](http://zorba.uafadm.alaska.edu/ankn/)

**Canadian Forest Service Fire Mngt. Network**

[www.nofc.forestry.ca/fire/index.html](http://www.nofc.forestry.ca/fire/index.html)

**National Assn of State Foresters Forestry Links**

[sso.org/nasf/nasflynx.html](http://sso.org/nasf/nasflynx.html)

**National Fire Protection Assn Fire Resource Links**

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

**NPS Alaska Support Center Home Page**

[www.nps.gov/akso/gis/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/akso/gis/index.htm)

**NPS Fire Management Program Center**

[www.nps.gov/fire](http://www.nps.gov/fire)

**USFW Fire Management**

[fire.r9.fws.gov](http://fire.r9.fws.gov)

**U.S. Forest Service Fire Site**

[www.fs.fed.us/land/#fire](http://www.fs.fed.us/land/#fire)

**WeatherNet**

[cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet](http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet)

